

Birth to Five

WAYS TO ASK OLDER INFANTS AND TODDLERS QUESTIONS

Asking questions is an important way to extend conversations. For older infants and toddlers, watch for their responses in facial expressions, gestures, and body language, and listen for vocalizations as well as words. For this age group, focus on asking more open-ended questions to extend their language and thinking. Remember to match their pace—wait for their responses before commenting or asking more questions!

The first column below lists strategies for asking questions. The second column provides examples of questions you might ask.

Ask children about what they see, do, and feel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are you going to play next? • What do you see on this page?
Ask questions that help children connect with their own lives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let's look at this family photo album together. Who do you see in these photos? • Where should we hang your picture? • You're rubbing your eyes. How do you feel?
Ask children to make predictions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think will happen if you put one more block on top of the tower? • What will the caterpillar eat next? (<i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i>)
Ask children to explain something or solve a problem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can we use this box for? • Why do you think the block tower fell down? • How can we bring all of these balls outside?